Top 10 Mistakes to Avoid in your Job when Planning your Start up

#1 Don't tell your boss! That's pretty obvious - hopefully! No matter how pally you are with your boss keep your start up plans to yourself. Redundancy, pay rises could come up during the planning stages and you wouldn't want to miss out.

#2 Don't share your start up idea with all and sundry. There will always be naysayers. People love to tell you why it won't work. It's time to start surrounding yourself with positive, like-minded, ambitious people, who are ready to support you.

#3 Don't think it's going to be easy There is no such thing as an overnight success. Behind every successful business is a business owner who is dedicated, committed, goal orientated and tenacious who really has put the time in to get out what they want.

#4 Don't give up your job without a clue as to your starting point. (OK, you can, but it's so much easier if you seek some help 1st). There are so many people out there who can help guide you and create a plan with you to give you clarity: a mentor, business coach, Prince's Trust etc. Give yourself some breathing space to work out your 1st and 2nd steps.

#5 Don't think too far in advance. Yes it's important for you to know what you want from your business; what it's going to look like and what you want it to deliver for you. But, more importantly it's about you taking that 1st small steps forward. One step at a time.

#6 Don't have misguided loyalty. Be loyal to yourself 1st and foremost. Protect your own interests.

#7 Don't waste any time. Use up any holiday allowance going on courses, networking, exhibitions, events - anything that is going to help you develop personally and professionally for your new start up.

#8 Don't assume your company will look after your interests when you leave your job. Make sure you have any outstanding bonuses, paid holiday, pension, share schemes all wrapped up and you understand the implications if (when!) you leave. Your HR department (or an independent one) will confidentially deal with any questions you have. Get anything important in writing. I learnt this the hard way.

#9 Don't burn any bridges. You never know who in the current job will come in useful in the future. We all take different paths, so leave with your dignity and professionalism in tact!

#10 Save some money. Whilst you're earning, save as much as you can. 10% is a great rule to follow and you will be so grateful and pleased with yourself when you leave and you have money in the bank to get started: business cards, website, networking groups will be at the top of your investment list!